

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 161615Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7717
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15243

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, XF
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRIMIN KARAME - MY MEETING WITH
ATHERTON

REF: BEIRUT 15140

1. THIS MORNING I REQUESTED MEETING WITH PRIMIN EITHER TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, DEC 17 OR THURSDAY MORNING, DEC 18. WORD CAME BACK THAT PRIMIN COULD ONLY SEE ME 1230 TODAY, DEC 16. TOLD PRIMIN THAT THERE WAS GOOD POSSIBILITY I MIGHT BE GOING TO AMMAN ON THURSDAY TO MEET WITH ASST. SECRETARY ATHERTON. TOLD HIM THIS WAS STILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND THEREFORE WISHED HIM TO KEEP IT STRICTLY TO HIMSELF. OFFERED TO CARRY ANY MESSAGE. PRIMIN THEN LAUNCHED INTO HIS REACTION RE RADIO ISRAEL'S REPORT RE MOLESTATION JEWISH PEOPLE BEIRUT (SEPTTEL). HE WAS MORE AGITATED THAN I HAVE EVER SEEN HIM.

2. WE THEN DISCUSSED CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION BEIRUT AND I ASKED WHERE HE STOOD WITH HIS IDEA THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ALGERIA, SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT MIGHT, UNDER ARAB LEAGUE AUSPICES, ENDEAVOR MEDIATE LEBANESE PROBLEMS. HE SAID THIS IDEA HAD MET WITH "SOME OBJECTIONS"

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AND HE HAD SHELVED IT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, HE IS CURRENTLY

THINKING OF TRYING TO BRING ABOUT AN ASAD/FRANGIE MEETING,
FOR NOT ONLY DID ASAD STAND VERY HIGH IN FRANGIE'S BOOKS
BUT ALSO HE, KARAME, BELIEVED ASAD WAS ONE OF THE FEW
ARAB LEADERS WHO COULD EFFECTIVELY PREACH MODERATION AND
UNDERSTANDING TO FRANGIE. I MADE NO COMMITMENT WHATSOEVER
OTHER THAN TO STATE I WOULD FORWARD THESE VIEWS TO AMBASSADOR
MURPHY AND ASST. SECRETARY ATHERTON.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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